Tentative Synopsis of the Doctoral Research Thesis Entitled

Reflections of India in the Select Non-Fiction of Shashi Tharoor: A Critical Perspective

Submitted to

SWAMI RAMANAND TEERTH MARATHWADA UNIVERSITY, NANDED

For the Approval of the Title

Submitted by

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2020-2021

Non- Fiction in Indian Writing in English: An Introduction

Literature in all its forms has always been a lighthouse for society. Literature as a lighthouse has been a source of aesthetic pleasure in the form of Drama, Poetry, and Fiction. It has been a reflection of the human race and moral guide for society in the form of Non-Fictional writing. Authors have always been social critics and reformers enriching the contemporary and future generations. We can never dare to deny the role of literature in the formation of civil society. We as Students of literature not only enjoy but also take privilege in unearthing various layers of literary creations. Literature in India has its roots way back in the Epics, Religious Chanting, the Purans, and the Vedas, written in various Indian languages with a majority in Sanskrit. The non-fiction an Indian Writing in English is an outcome of the British Education System established in India. Indian literature in the 19th and the early 20th centuries can be traced in some of its significant reservoirs like spiritual, philosophical, social, political, and economic.

Indian Writing in English (IWE) is the literature written in English by Indian men and women showcasing the country's aspirations, views, situations, culture, and diversity in colonial and post-colonial India. Literature has been nurtured and flourished in India by Swami Vivekananda, Maharshi Dayanand Sarswati, the luminaries in the spiritual sphere. Indian society has been enlightened and awakened in the political, national, and philosophical spirit by the freedom fighters and thinkers like Lokmanya Tilak, Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, Bankimchandra Chatarjee, Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Dr. Sarwpalli Radhakrishnan through their literary output and journalistic writing. Indian social and cultural evils were lashed out by the social reformers led by Raja Rammohan Roy, Jyotiba Phule, and Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.

R. K. Narayan, Raj Rao, and **Mulk Raj Anand** are the forerunners and choral authors contributing through their voluminous works to Indian Writing in English in early the 19th century. Indianness and India's potential to rise as a superpower are major themes and concerns for the writers who wrote in pre and post-independence India who include Khushwant Singh, Arundhati Roy, Manohar Malgaonkar depicting the social aspects of independent India. Dr. Ambedkar, Nehru, Gandhi, have been the visionary thinkers who thought and discussed India's potential to be the world's largest democratic country to transform as world leader. **Dr. A.P.J. Kalam and Yagnaswami Sundar Rajan** in **India 2020** depict the role of science and technology in the emergence of India as one among four super powers in the world. Post-

colonial literature in IWE has its spirit of source at the stroke of Midnight 15 August 1947, when India embarked its journey of the welfare state shaping lives of her citizens. It has always been a long cherished dream for each and every Indian to reclaim its glory of the past. It is therefore important to critically understand the writers who have presented the minute details of India's quest for emerging as a momentous contributor and becoming a "Superpower". Dr. Shashi Tharoor is one of the major figures in contemporary Indian English fiction and non-fiction, specifically highlighting the idea of India. He has a distinct perspective towards India's Global status, internal harmony, and Socio-Political equations empowering or discouraging the economic growth of the country. His views are validated and significant due to his vast experience as an international diplomat and as the Under Secretary General to the office UN Secretary General.

Review of Literature

Dr. Shashi Rajan Tharoor, has always been an attraction for the academicians and students of literature and international diplomatic studies. He became a noteworthy contributor with more than 16 fiction and nonfiction books along with numerous articles and columns in national, international newspapers to his credit. Dr. Shashi Tharoor is not only a best-selling author of sensational books but a critically acclaimed and appreciated international orator.

His balanced views have always been exciting matters for academic discussions, newspaper columns, debates, research papers and doctoral theses. Research scholars have been always fascinated by his four fictional works and have extensively researched on the fictional contributions of the author. **Shashi Tharoor a Critical Study:** Thesis Submitted to Dr.Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, by Patil, Geeta M. in 2003, focuses on the Mythical-Political-Cultural aspects by emphasizing the significance of Adolescence. **Themes and Narratives in the Novels of Shashi Tharoor:** Thesis submitted to Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla University by Tiwari Lalan Kumar in 2014. It highlights and studies the narrative and thematic techniques in the fictional text of Shashi Tharoor**. Myths and History in Amitabh Ghosh, Shashi Tharoor and Salaman Rushdie A Comparative Study**: Thesis submitted to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Avadh University Faizabad in 2013 by Mishra D. S. A comparative line in the selected novel of three Indian fictional novelists through mythical realism. **Tradition and modernity in fiction of Shashi Tharoor**: Thesis submitted

to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Aurangabad Maharashtra in 2018 by Jadhav Vikas Devrao. The researcher offers critical insights into the fictional works of Shashi Tharoor by showcasing aspects of Tradition and Modernity. **Exploration of multicultural Concerns in the Novels of Shashi Tharoor:** a research paper volume 5 number 1 2017, Eknath D. Patil emphasized the theme such as ideology, west and east culture, the Mahabharata, Bollywood and multiculturalism. **Reflection of Indianness in Shashi Tharoor:** a research paper, volume 1 issue. 7 September 2013, Bhavesh Parmar focused on the fictional works in terms of Indianness and traditional values and the system incorporating India's concept of nation.

It is evident that the fictional works of the author have been explored, studied and analysed. The non-fictional works of the author are yet to be explored and presented at doctoral level.

Research Gap

Great Indian Novel, Riot, Bollywood Show Business, and Five Dollars Smile have been mostly explored and researched works of Tharoor. Researchers have taken immense efforts to analyse and present the literary techniques of Tharoor in his fictional works. Mythical, narrative techniques, anecdotal, modernity and historical perspectives has been studied.

Non-fictional works can be an exciting choice for researchers because of positive and energetic ideas regarding India's dreams and aspiration. The author is a distinct contributor to the theme of India emerging as a world superpower. His works are a product of thorough analytical descriptions of facts and research. He has been a profound thinker succinctly reflecting on the idea of India from the ancient to the modern age. He does not present only imaginary, self-boosting, and biased ideas for India's quest for 'Super Power' but also critically explores the hurdles in the way and provides a well drafted solution. The author is aptly significant and relevant because of his critique of India through International perspective. As an international civil servant he has minutely observed and understood multiple dimensions of various countries along with India at international level. He clearly fore sees India's opportunity to be among world leaders. He is an optimal source to understand India inside out

through his non-fictions. His works are elaborative with balanced comments on India's past glory, present stand, and possibilities to emerge as world leader.

As a researcher, it is very exciting to know, understand and carry out my doctoral enterprise on non-fictional writing of Dr. Shashi Tharoor. Present research will specifically focus on select non-fictional works of Shashi Tharoor spanning over a period of two decades to minutely understand the author's **"Plea to Power" for India.**

Research Problem

The perspective of Shashi Tharoor regarding the vision of new India would be India's multi-aligned instead of non-aligned approach to emerge as a global significant contributor to sustainable development. It would be a research question to find out whether social, political and cultural, chaotic situations are deliberately created for short term ideological gain at the cost of the age-old inclusive idea of India.

India is a Nation with a legacy of culturally evolved value-based ideas pertaining to inclusive society with the potential to become a world leader at various dimensions. This research exercise would also focus on various issues involved in restricting the overall development of the Nation as expected for more than seven decades after independence.

Research Objectives:

The present research study will have following objectives:

1. To identify various issues pertaining to glorious historical perspectives of India and their manipulation by neglecting historicity
2. To explore and evaluate various perspectives of the world about India
3. To identify various issues to be redefined and addressed for emergence of new India
4. To focus on issues regarding belongingness and affinity of citizens towards the India
5. To study and evaluate the impact of a majoritarian approach for the development of India
6. To find out whether there is a significant role of soft-power in the formation of India as a global super power

Hypotheses:

1. India has to be pluralistic and inclusive instead of having a non-aligned and narrow discriminative approach to emerge as a global significant contributor to the world.
2. The social, political and cultural chaotic situations in the country are hurdles in the way to become a global leader.
3. There are untapped significant potentials pertaining to the development of the Nation which are deliberately neglected. These negligence is adding to inaccessibility of different resources to various strata of society.

Research Methodology:

The researcher will apply the descriptive, analytical, analogical, explanatory methods for the proposed study. The researcher would follow the MLA style of documentation. Even the interviews of the writer and the interviews of the eminent personalities by Shashi Tharoor will analysed and studied. The researcher will desperately try to interact through email, personal interview with the author as well. Authors select works along with other literature that will be precisely used in the process of this research work.

Scope and Limitations of the Study:

The present research is predominantly based on the select text as primary resources: **India: From Midnight to the Millennium** (1997), **The Elephant, the Tiger, and the Cell Phone**: Reflections on India, the Emerging 21st-century Power (2007), **Pax India** (2012), **India: The Future is Now** (2013), **Why I Am a Hindu** (2018), **The Battle of Belonging: On Nationalism, On Nationalism, Patriotism, And What It Means To Be Indian** (2020), in printed original copies. The research will take critical insight of secondary sources such as other texts, columns, articles, interviews, talks and speeches of the author. It would reflect on various reviews and remarks of eminent personalities.

Tentative Chapter Scheme:

Present research will be presented systematically through seven chapters as shown below with a brief note for each chapter.

Chapter: I Introduction This chapter will primarily discuss the concept of development in terms of a nation. How is a nation characterized as developed, developing, and underdeveloped? What are the perspectives creating an impact on the theories and realities of status of a nation? Can development be measured in terms of physical and technical availability, accessibility of resources? Are these compartments and categories of nations so water tight?

Chapter: II This chapter will primarily focus on the author's contribution to Indian writing in English, with primary focus on the bio literary profile of Dr. Shashi Tharoor and influences on the author and people policies influenced by the author.

Chapter: III Reflection of India in Major Non-fiction text in IWE: A survey India has been a source of number of authors and literary artists for their work. Indianness has been profoundly presented in the colonial and the post-colonial authors. This chapter will take a precise note of the significant authors creating an image of India.

Chapter: IV Shashi Tharoor's Reflection on Indian Culture, Language, Science & Technology. The researcher will present a critical insight on the author's views on cultural, linguistic aspects of Indian society along with scientific and technical developments taking place in the country.

Chapter: V Shashi Tharoor's Reflection on Indian Philosophy, Religion, Spirituality. This chapter will extensively cover the author's views of India as the world's oldest philosophy, religion, and land of spirituality. Which manifests India's leadership in the field of soft power. It will also focus various issues like loss of identity, struggle for India's civic soul, problem of belongingness, superficial ideas of religious beliefs discussed creating an adverse impact on the quest for the emergence of new India.

Chapter: VI Shashi Tharoor's Reflection on Indian Democracy and Economic Growth. India, a culturally diverse country, adopted the representative democracy and commenced its journey of economic growth as minutely presented in works of Shashi. What is the need for a shift in national and international policies? Shashi Tharoor's selected nonfictions focus on the glorified history of Indian culture that is inclusive and evolving from the ancient time. It would lead the world if intra-social, cultural, political aspirations, and approaches are focused and understood in a holistic manner for economic development.

Chapter: VII Shashi Tharoor's Vision of India: A Conclusion .This chapter will look at India's concerns to realise the long cherished dream along with how India can accomplish its quest for Global Leadership. The researcher will draw conclusion based on the discussions and analysis in the previous chapters. It will focus on the ideals and realities of the author's convincing narrative for the logical elaboration to answer the problem statement. It will suggest scope for further research.

Research Scholar — Research Guide

Mr. Waghmare Govind Bhagwanrao — Dr.S.G.Bhanegaonkar

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C] Reference Books:

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2] Atalia Omer; Jason A. Springs, Religious Nationalism: A Reference Handbook. California: Santa Barbara, 2013.

D] Research Article, Papers, Columns.

E] Digital Resources:

1] World Wide Web.

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